



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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October 5, 2011

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SECOND STATUS REPORT – REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
COMMAND POST (BOARD AGENDA ITEM 7, JULY 12, 2011)**

On July 12, 2011, your Board instructed the Auditor-Controller to conduct an independent review of the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) operations since 2005. The Board order was based, in part, on allegations that some children were spending too much time and were receiving inadequate care at ERCP, while waiting to be placed in a more permanent setting (e.g., relatives, foster families, group homes, etc.).

On August 16, 2011, we advised your Board that our review was being delayed because of State confidentiality laws, which prohibit access to children's records (e.g., case files, ERCP logs, etc.) without an order from the Juvenile Court. County Counsel filed a petition requesting Auditor-Controller's access to these records on July 25, 2011. The Court approved the petition on August 17, 2011.

After the delay in getting access to the ERCP records, we are now working on finalizing our review of ERCP, and expect to issue our report to your Board by November 18, 2011.

Board of Supervisors  
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Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Campbell at (213) 213-0101.

WLW:JLS:RGC:YK

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Philip L. Browning, Interim Director, DCFS  
Andrea Sheridan Ordin, County Counsel  
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Audit Committee  
Public Information Office